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22 June 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL YOUNG:

Subject: CIA Orientation Course for Military Personnel.

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1. A [redacted] request I attended a meeting in Colonel Matt Baird's office on 21 June 1954 at 1400 for the purpose of discussing in detail SPDM-216-54, dated 10 June 1954, subject as above. Present at the meeting were the following:

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[redacted]
Colonel Baird

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[redacted]
Colonel Baird

2. I explained that the purpose of the orientation course was to give a general course of instruction that would assist military staff personnel working in this field and create a better understanding between CIA and the military by presenting a clear picture of:

- a. The purpose and organization of the agency.
- b. Problems in covert operations.
- c. Techniques in covert operations.

3. Mr. Baird stated that to present a course along the lines requested in our SPDM-216-54 would require a special effort on the part of CIA to organize such a course. He estimated that it would require three weeks of instruction, two 5-day weeks in the Washington area with a climax of one week at the training station to cover the course material.

4. In view of the limited availability of personnel qualified to conduct seminars, the proposed course of instruction could not be conducted on a seminar basis. Therefore, the course could adequately handle as many as 25 students at a time.

5. I suggested that as the course progressed, we would probably find that the CINCs would have a requirement for sending selected personnel to attend such a course. This brought up the question concerning the lack of instruction, in this field, in the military command and staff, and war colleges. The members of CIA expressed the opinion that the military schools do not have personnel on their staff with experience in this field. This prevented them from including an adequate instruction in unconventional and covert operations in the school curricula. It was felt that such a situation could be alleviated if staff representatives of the military schools were invited to attend the proposed orientation course. Finally, the CIA members were of the opinion that the proposed course of instruction should be three or possibly four weeks

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and should be given approximately twice a year with an enrollment of approximately 25 students per class.

6. A further discussion concerning the topic outline revealed that some of the topics listed for instruction could not be presented to students without prior attendance in basic clandestine courses. For example, it was the opinion of the CIA staff that students would not be able to comprehend some of the terminology used in the stay-behind course without having first attended the 5 weeks course of clandestine crafts.

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7. In closing it was agreed that I would work closely with Mr. [] to develop an orientation course of instruction for military personnel. Since it would require a complete rewrite of present course material for this specific purpose, CIA considered this to be a long range project and would not be able to meet the proposed date of 1 September. No estimate was made as to when the course could be made available.

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8. [] suggested that it might be advisable for someone from JSPD to attend the 5 week clandestine crafts course at the training station. With such background a military man would be much better qualified to assist in working up a practical curricula. Your comments regarding the availability of a JSPD member for the clandestine crafts course are requested.

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[] is now attempting to determine whether such a course could be made available to a member of JSPD providing you concur that it would be a useful exercise.

F. W. BEXFIELD
Colonel, USAF

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